

D-607
Eli Melson House
Hurlock
Private
c. 1896-97

The Eli Melson house is one of the best preserved and most elaborate examples of Queen Anne domestic design in the town of Hurlock. A nearly intact exterior of asymmetrical elevations executed in the characteristic contrasting surfaces of weatherboards and fishscale shingles is enhanced with an intricately carved, Eastlake inspired square turned front porch with spindle eave decorations. Extending each elevation are projecting pavilions with extended eaves and decorative bargeboards. Occupying a corner lot across the street from the town library, the Melson house stands in a row of late nineteenth and early twentieth century frame dwellings that distinguish South Main Street.

Eli and Myra A. Melson financed construction of this finely detailed Queen Anne style residence after the purchase of a 1/2-acre lot from John M. and Celia Hurlock for \$250 in 1896. They enlarged their holdings with a second lot directly adjacent from then widower, John Hurlock. The lots were part of "Middle Division," one of the principal tracts on which Hurlock developed. During the mid to late twentieth century, the property was the long-time residence of George W. and Alice H. Hubbard. Their ownership stretched from the World War II era to 1998 when it was acquired by the Mayor and Council of Hurlock.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-607

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Eli Melson House

other Hubbard House

2. Location

street and number 300 South Main Street not for publication

city, town Hurlock vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Mayor and Council of Hurlock

street and number P. O. Box 327 telephone

city, town Hurlock state MD zip code 21643

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 391 folio 209

city, town Cambridge tax map 401 tax parcel 400 tax ID number 15-004975

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-607

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Eli Melson House, also known as the Hubbard house, is located at 300 South Main Street in the center of the town of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne style frame dwelling, erected around 1896-97, is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles within the gable ends. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof and its various gable roofed extensions is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The house faces northeast.

The northeast (main) façade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance fixed in the northern bay of the main block, while a projecting two-story pavilion dominates the southern two bays. The entire first story is sheltered by decorated Eastlake style porch that wraps around the south side of the projecting pavilion as an enclosed porch. The entrance bay is defined by a cross gable and an arched fan of turned spindles. Stretching between the square turned porch posts is a square turned handrail and a row of decorative turned eave spindles above the brackets. The eave of the porch is extended with an open soffit and decorated bargeboards. The entrance bay is fitted with a partially glazed front door. The projecting pavilion is two bays across with two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second stories. A small window is fixed within the gable end and is framed by a field of fishscale shingles. The eave of the house is extended with an open soffit and decorated bargeboards. Piercing the top of the pyramidal roof is a single flue brick stove chimney.

The southeast side of the house is an asymmetrical façade as well with a projecting pavilion fixed on the western side, and it is extended farther forward by a two-story, semi-octagonal bay topped by a shed roof and lighted by two-over-two sash windows. The cornice of the two-story bay is accented with a dentiled molding. The south side of the wraparound porch is enclosed, but the former side entrance is enhanced by a cross gable on the porch roof. The enclosed section of porch is defined by a bank of four single-pane sash windows. A single two-over-two sash window lights the second floor of the front pavilion, and a gable roofed dormer marks the south slope of the roof. The dormer is finished with the same extended eave and open soffit as the rest of the house. Attached to the back of the pyramidal roofed main block is a two-story, one-bay by one-bay service wing that extended on each side by single-story shed roofed additions.

The northwest side of the main block is an uneven elevation as well with another projecting pavilion extending the core of the house. The pavilion is lighted by two-over-two sash windows, whereas the main block is defined on the first floor by a pair of small squarish proportioned one-over-one sash windows set on a diagonal to light the stairwell. Pairs of two-over-two sash windows light each floor of the projecting pavilion and a single pane sash window is fixed within the gable end. Like the front of the house, the gable end is finished with fishscale shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-607

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Eli Melson house is one of the best preserved and most elaborate examples of Queen Anne domestic design in the town of Hurlock. A nearly intact exterior of asymmetrical elevations executed in the characteristic contrasting surfaces of weatherboards and fishscale shingles is enhanced with an intricately carved square turned post front porch with spindle eave decorations. Extending each elevation are projecting pavilions with extended eaves and decorative bargeboards. The house occupies a centrally located corner property south of the town library.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Eli and Myra A. Melson financed construction of this finely detailed Queen Anne style residence after the purchase of a ½-acre lot from John M. and Celia Hurlock for \$250.¹ They enlarged their acquisition with a second lot directly adjacent two years later from then widower, John M. Hurlock.² The lots were part of "Middle Division," one of the principal tracts on which Hurlock expanded during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the mid to late twentieth century the property was the long-time residence of George W. and Alice H. Hubbard.³ Their ownership stretched from the World War II era to 1998 when it was acquired by the Mayor and Council of Hurlock.⁴

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 20/500, 11 July 1896, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 22/535, 19 July 1898, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 48/692, 19 February 1944, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, MLB 391/209, 16 December 1998, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Eli Melson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Eli Melson House
300 South Main Street
Hurlock, Maryland

Map 401, Parcel 400

MLB 391/209

Harriet Marguerite Hubbard

to

12.16.1998

Mayor and Council of Hurlock

RSM 48/92

Lester J. Medford, et ux

to

2.19.1944

George W. Hubbard
Alice H. Hubbard
Harriet Marguerite Hubbard

2 lots or parcels in the town of Hurlock

Lot No. 1 conveyed to Myra A. Melson by John M. Hurlock and
and Celia Hurlock, 7.11.1896, CL 20/500, "Middle Division" ½ acre

Lot No. 2, conveyed to Myra A. Melson by John M. Hurlock, widower,
7.19.1898, CL 22/535

RSM 48/692

Lester J. Medford, et ux

to

2.19.1944

George W. Hubbard and Alice H. Hubbard

\$2,500

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Historic Properties Form

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Name Eli Melson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Thomas J. Hackett & others

to

Lester J. Medford and Anna B. Medford

Chancery Case No. 5651

Mortgage
JFD 35/432

Lester J. Medford and Anna B. Medford

from

8.7.1934

Ralph C. Milligan

JFD 31/296

Calvin Harrington & others (Vernon A. Hitch, Thomas J. Hackett)

to

8.7.1934

Lester J. Medford and Anna B. Medford

\$3,250.00 Decree of Circuit Court

Thomas J. Hackett and Emma Hackett, complainants, Mary Williams
and others defendants,

"Middle Division"

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Name Eli Melson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

CL 22/535

John M. Hurlock, widower

to

7.19.1898

Myra A. Melson

CL 20/500

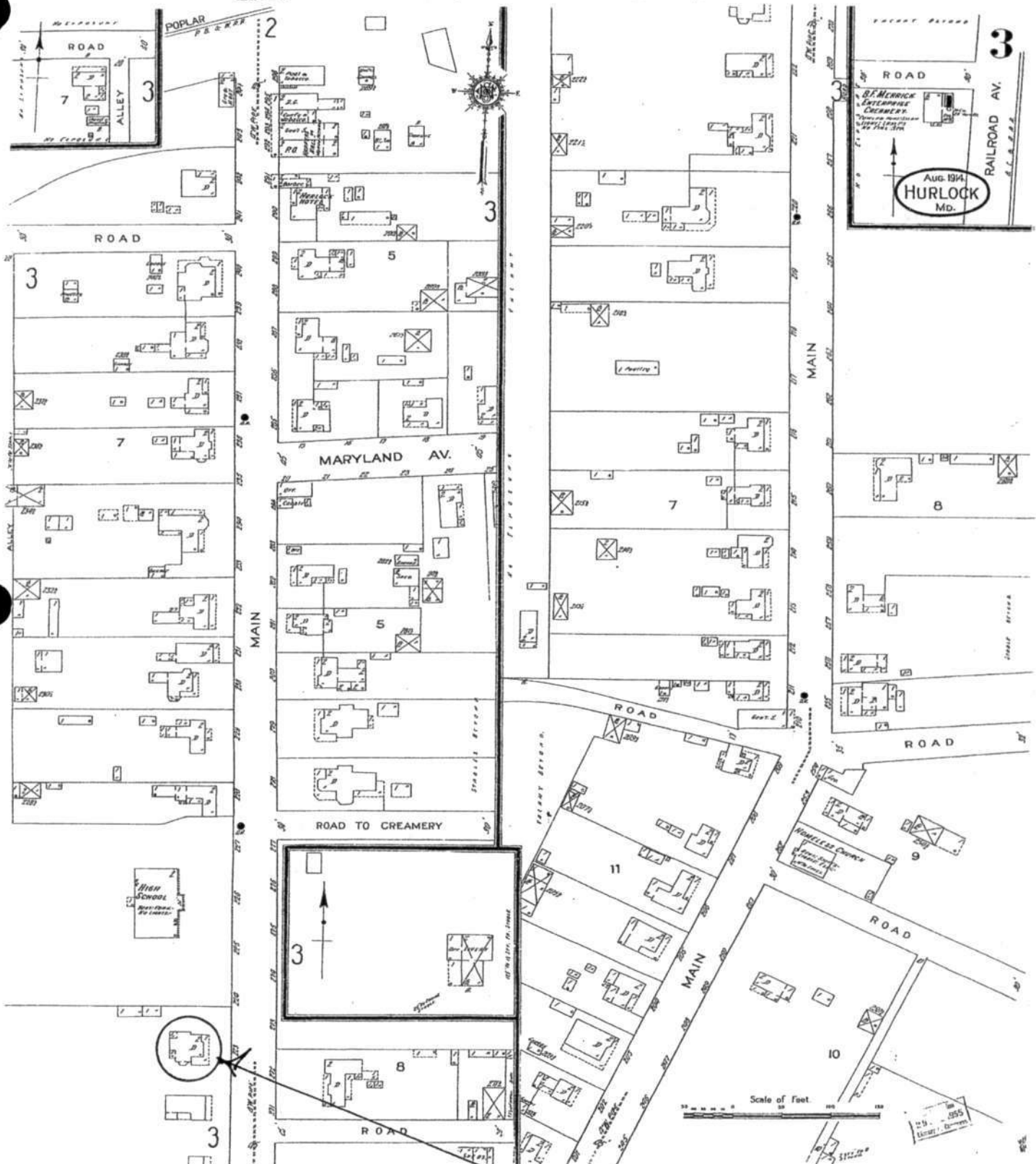
John M. Hurlock and Celia Hurlock

to

7.11.1896

Myra A. Melson

\$250.00 ½ acre



9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, various volumes, Library of Congress.

Stevens, Jessie Virginia, *Old and Charming: Some of the Older Homes of Hurlock, Maryland*, 1992.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1/2 acre

Acreage of historical setting 1 acre

Quadrangle name MD-DEL

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

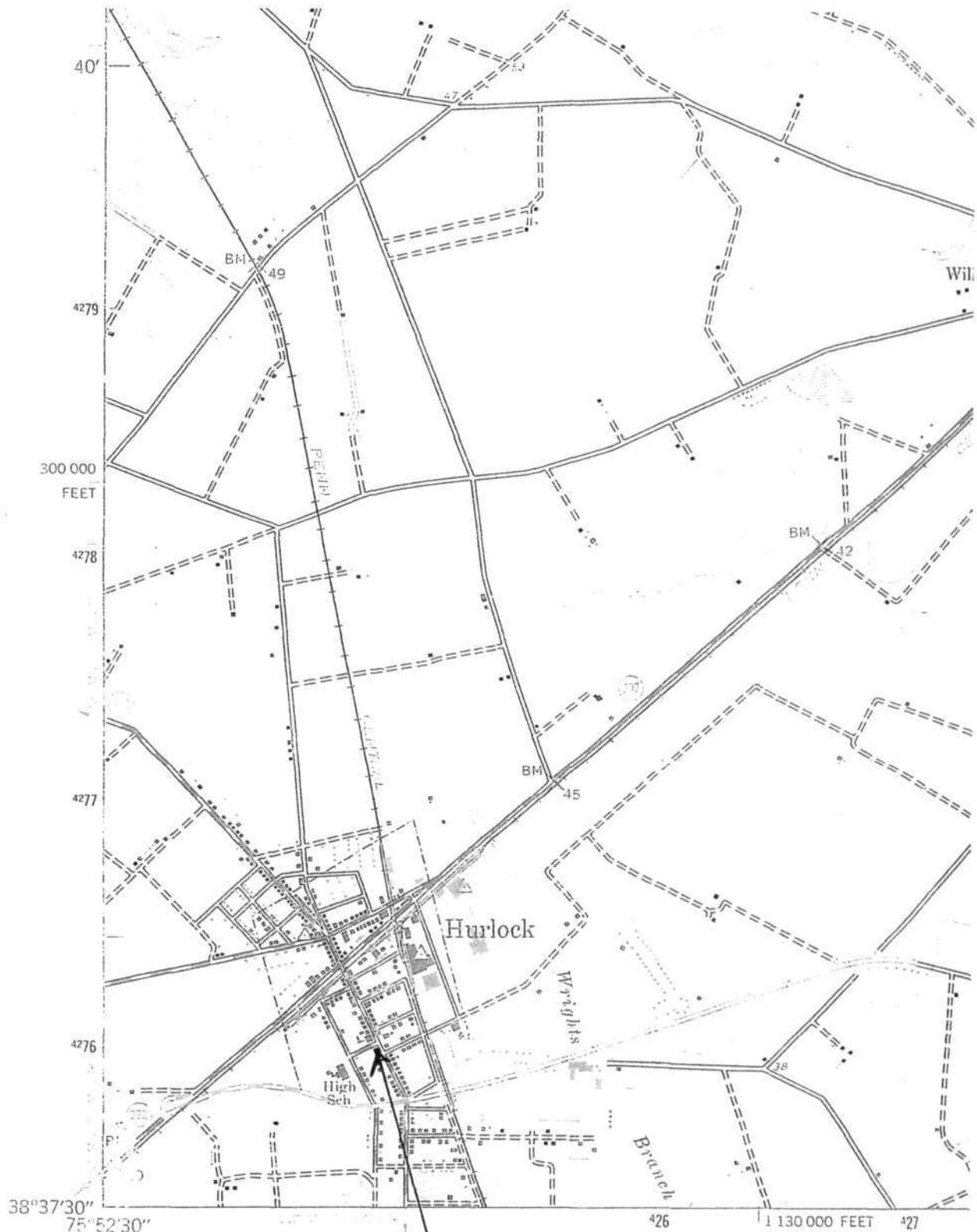
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/23/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



(EAST NEW MARKET)
5861 in SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planetable surveys 1944. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1974. This information

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

D-607, Eli Melson House
300 South Main Street
Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle, 197



D-607

Eli Mellow House, 700 S. Main St.

Hurlock, Dorchester Co. MD.

Southeast elevation

7/08, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEL/ MD Historical Trust



D-607

ELI MERSON HOUSE, 300 S. MAIN ST.
HARLOCK, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

7/08, PAUL TOUALT, PHOTOGRAPHER
WETA/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

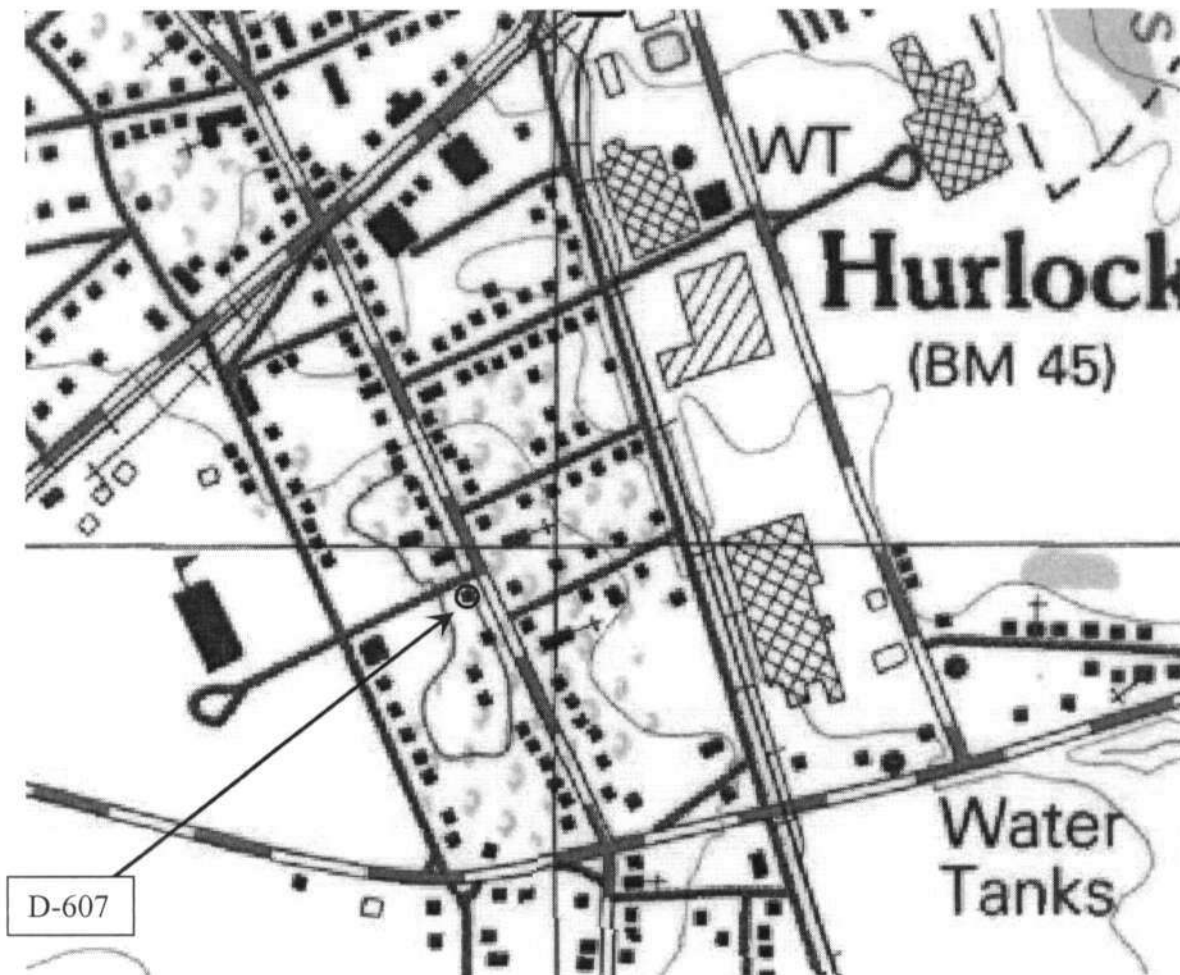
2/2

D-607
300 South Main Street
Hurlock
Private

Circa 1900

This house is one of the most elaborate and elegant Queen Anne style houses in this part of the county and rivals many of the houses from this period in Cambridge. Its skyline of gables, dormers, and projecting bays is topped by a decorative chimney. This house also possesses an intricate wraparound porch with turned spindles running below the cornice, climaxing in a dramatic sunburst pattern above the entrance. The use of turned spindles on porches or along the eaves is often called Eastlake after the British architectural critic Charles Eastlake, who favored this device.

D-607
300 South Main St.
Herlock
Federalsburg Quad.
Dorchester Co.





D-607

300 S. Main Street, Hurlock

100%